

NEW TRIBES MISSIONARIES

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of three American missionaries who have been held hostage for over 5 years by FARC guerillas.

In January of 1993, Colombian guerillas crossed the border and kidnapped David Mankins, Richard Tenenoff, and Mark Rich from a Panamanian Indian village. During the first year of captivity, FARC intermittently contacted New Tribes Missions to demand payment of a \$5 million ransom. But, in 1994, the guerillas cut off all contact.

According to the New Tribes Missions authorities, there are credible reports that the three Americans are still alive. Last July, Assistant Secretary of State John Shattuck committed to doing everything possible to secure the release of these three Americans. In addition, a number of Latin American countries have pledged their assistance to resolving this hostage situation.

Mr. Speaker, American citizens' lives are at stake. I urge President Clinton, Secretary Albright, the State Department and all other appropriate American officials to work with other countries to help bring an end to this tragic situation.

CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM
KILLED ONCE AGAIN

(Mr. FARR of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, well, we were here yesterday for almost 12 hours; and we were able to kill campaign finance reform. It reminds me of borrowing a lyric from the old song "The Party's Over:" "It's time to wind up the masquerade. But make up your mind, the piper must be paid."

The campaign finance reform has not been done. There are no limits on expenditures. There is no ban on soft money. There is no disclosure for independent groups that campaign for or against politicians. History reveals again last night that the Republican Party has killed the campaign finance reform once again.

In 1992, a bill got to the President's desk and Bush vetoed it. In 1994, the Senate Republicans filibustered against campaign finance reform and killed it. In 1996, this House, under present leadership, killed H.R. 3505. And now, in 1998, the House leadership once again killed campaign finance reform.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican Party does not want to bite the money interests that field their campaigns. But do not forget, it is not the money that elects us, it is the people who vote.

NO EMBARGO ON FOOD AND
MEDICINE GOING TO CUBA

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, a portion of the infrastructure of Fidel Castro in the United States is here in Washington today to promote the lives and propaganda of the regime. They will speak of a political embargo on the sending of food and medicine from the U.S. to Cuba while never mentioning an unkind word about the regime.

But, once again, Mr. Speaker, let us set the facts straight. There is no embargo on food and medicine going to Cuba. The United States is, in fact, the largest humanitarian aid donor to Cuba, sending more aid to the island than all of the other nations in the world combined.

If there are no medicines in Cuba, why do foreign tourists with hard currency receive top-quality health care on the island? If there is a shortage of food in Cuba, why do luxury hotels pamper tourists with world-class meals? If there are no medicines in Cuba, why has Castro exported \$300 million in medicines over the past 2 years?

Do not believe the propaganda. The only embargo that has to be lifted is the embargo on freedom, human rights, and democracy that the Cuban dictator has imposed on the people of Cuba.

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KEEP TALKING ABOUT THE
MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. GUTIERREZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, last week as the cherry blossoms bloomed in Washington, Americans were treated to yet another sight that they had long awaited, a Republican legislative agenda. Finally the GOP articulated an issue when the leader of the other body declared that Republicans would block any increase in the minimum wage. Yes, while the Dow Jones climbs higher, Republicans say that some workers are unworthy of sharing in America's prosperity.

As my colleagues know, when trading closes each day on Wall Street, someone has to clean up the Stock Exchange, someone is serving drinks to the investors getting together to celebrate, and somebody is stitching together the \$3,000 suits fashionable in the financial district. Yet some of those workers are struggling to get by on an annual income lower than the wardrobe expenses of some of the well-dressed brokers.

Mr. Speaker, I have one request of the Republican leader of the other body: Keep talking about the minimum wage. The staunch opposition can only help us in uniting working families,

and when we Democrats pass a minimum wage increase over objections, we will be saying, "Senator LOTT, thanks a lot."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOSSELLA). Members should avoid references to Members of the other body.

NO TAXATION WITHOUT
COMPREHENSION

(Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, the stirrings of patriotic revolution in this country 222 years ago were energized by the cries of "No taxation without representation." Today it is time for a new call to common sense: "No taxation without comprehension."

That is right, Mr. Speaker, a tax code that even the experts cannot figure out is an assault on common sense, an assault on logic and an assault on the American conception of self-government. Formerly loyal British subjects were so offended by the idea of taxation without representation that soon a revolution of American patriots was born, and today more and more ordinary taxpaying Americans are so offended by a system of taxation without comprehension that a taxpayers revolt is emerging now across the land.

In simple terms, Mr. Speaker, it makes no sense to have a tax system that makes no sense. It is time to stop the madness and stand up to our absurd Tax Code, all 3,500 pages of it.

Democrats and Republicans unite. No taxation without comprehension.

DO-NOTHING CONGRESS IN RECESS
FROM REALITY

(Mr. DOGGETT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, as this Congress concludes the first 100 days of 1998, it is quite appropriately in recess. Indeed, the Republican leadership of this House has been in recess for most of this year on most issues that could really make a difference in the lives of most Americans.

They were in recess yesterday when, after demands for over a year to have a real debate on how to get the big money influence in this Congress controlled, they presented a phony bill that was rejected by even most of their own Members. They talk about taxes, but when it comes to closing the tax loopholes and ending the corporate welfare for those same big money contributors, this Congress has been in recess. When it comes to passing a budget that would protect Social Security first, in recess. On child care, on improving the quality of education, on